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Date: December 10, 2004

To: All Users of Public Release Arizona Hospital Discharge Data and Other Interested Parties

From: Donna Cox, Discharge Data Manager, Bureau of Public Health Statistics

Subject: A MODIFICATION to the Public Release layout of Arizona Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data

Beginning with the first half of 2004 the file layout of the Public Release Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data HAS BEEN MODIFIED (the 2004-01 IP file).

As part of our HIPAA compliance efforts, this step has been taken to further protect the confidential information in hospital discharge data records.

The existing field names and field lengths in the discharge data record layout HAVE NOT changed. However, because some of these fields are LEFT BLANK to protect confidential information, NEW FIELDS have been added to the end of each record to assist all public release data users.

In the Public Release Arizona Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data Layout, the list of data fields that are LEFT BLANK, include:

Patient's Medical Record Number
SSN or Certificate Number
Patient's Street Address
Patient's Date of Birth
Date of Admission
Date of Discharge
Principal Procedure Date
Patient name

The list of data fields that have been ADDED to the end of the Public Release Arizona Inpatient Discharge Data Layout include:

Unique Identifier
Patient's Age in Years
Patient's Age in Months (if under 1year)

Admission Year
Admission Month
Admission Day of Week
Discharge Year
Discharge Month
Length of Stay
Pre-Procedure Length of Stay
Newborn Indicator

With these revisions, the length of a record in the public release data file is now 895 characters.